

RECEIVED

JAN 10 2001 PATENT

TECH CENTER 1600/2809

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

B¹ 1. A method of preparing a substantially RNA-free cellular component, comprising culturing cells producing the cellular component in a medium and lysing said cells to produce a cell lysate, wherein said cell lysate contains said cellular component and RNase with sufficient RNase activity to degrade substantially all of the RNA molecules present in said cell lysate, and isolating said cellular component.

B² 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said cells comprise RNase-producing cells and cells comprising said cellular component wherein the RNase is produced by said RNase-producing cells.

sub 4. A method of preparing a substantially RNA-free cellular component, comprising culturing cells producing a cellular component and cells producing an RNase, lysing said cells to produce a cell lysate, wherein said cells producing an RNase produce RNase in an amount sufficient to degrade substantially all of the RNA present in said cell lysate, and isolating said cellular component.

B³ 8. The method of claim 1 or 4, wherein said RNase is encoded by a gene that is integrated into the genome of the cell producing the RNase.